Amendments to the Specification:

1.   Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Still referring to FIG. 1, the processor 110 and memory 120 are interconnected to at least one I/O (input/output) device 140 in the computer system 100. The I/O device 140 can be connected with one or more user interface devices 150, such as a keyboard, mouse, display, or the like. The user interface devices 150 permit a user of the computer system 100 to interact with various components of the computer system 100 or permit a user to cause certain processes to be executed. The I/O device 140 may be connected to a network 160, such as the Internet or a local area network. The connection with the network 160 permits the computer system 100 to communicate with one or more remote computer systems 170. For example, a remote computer system 170 may include a resource planning application [[172]] **122** similar to the previously described application [[122]]. In such an implementation, the resource planning application [[172]] **122** of the remote computer system 170 may receive information from the resource database 124 via the network connection. Thus, the resource planning application [[172]] **122** may be capable of receiving information from the resource database 124 and capable of transmitting new information to the resource database 124.

2.   Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] In some implementations, the computer system 100 may be a server system and the remote computer system(s) 170 may be remote workstations with which the server system 100 maintains network connections. The server system 100 includes memory that has the resource planning application 122 and the resource database 124 stored thereon. The resource planning application 122 ~~and the resource planning application 172 of the remote workstation system 170~~ may receive information from the database 124 and likewise transmit information to

the database 124. Such an implementation may be used, for example, by businesses where more than one manager or human resources professional has the authority to schedule a worker's time. In such circumstances, that worker's availability information is stored in the resource database 124, and each manager may use a personal workstation system 170 to schedule a portion of that worker's available time using a resource planning application [[172]] **122**. Because all of the resource planning applications [[172]] **122** (at the different workstation systems 170) receive information from one resource database 124 on the server system 100, a manager at one workstation system 170 may have access to the worker's time availability information as modified by another manager on another workstation system 170. In one example, a manager that intends to schedule a service technician to work in a technical support call center on either Thursday or Friday would be able to know that the service technician was previously scheduled by a different manager to work as a field service technician on Thursday.

3.   Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Referring to FIG. 2B, the resource planning application (e.g., the application 122 from FIG. 1) receives a non-concrete request for sixteen hours of service from the resource sometime on the dates of June 10-12. In one example where the resource is a professional consultant, such requests for the resource's time may come from a remote resource planning application [[172]] **122** used by the consultant's client or by the consulting firm's scheduling manager. The request for the resource's time is non-concrete because it does not specify the exact allotment of hours for each day. Rather, it merely requests sixteen hours of the resource's time to be distributed sometime between June 10 and June 12. The resource planning application receives the availability information from the resource database to verify that the resource has available time on those dates (as graphically represented in FIG. 2A, the resource has a total of

twenty-four available hours between the days of June 10-12). Because the resource had no other assignments scheduled for the three-day period 200, the resource planning application evenly distributes the non-concrete request into portions 231, 232, and 233 over the three-day period 200. The purpose of including the non-concrete request in the resource's schedule is to take into account the impact it will have on the availability of the resource. In this implementation, the non-concrete request is apportioned into 5{fraction (1/3)} hours for each day so as to reserve a total of sixteen hours. In some embodiments, such an assignment may be scheduled in an electronic schedule that allots the 5{fraction (1/3)} hours into actual time slots (e.g., 8:00 AM to 1:20 PM), thus reserving that time slot for the resource to serve/work on the desired task. Because the 5{fraction (1/3)} hour portions 231, 232, and 233 are from a non-concrete request, the scheduled time slots may be modified to accommodate a subsequent concrete request (explained in more detail below). As shown in FIG. 2B, the non-concrete assignment has an impact on the resource's availability that is equivalent to the resource being used at 66.6% capacity for each day in the three-day range 200.